

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of Robert L. Popp, et al. Art Unit 3761
Serial No. 10/036,573
Filed December 31, 2001
Confirmation No. 4042
For MECHANICAL FASTENING SYSTEM FOR AN ABSORBENT ARTICLE
Examiner Karin M. Reichle

June 20, 2005

Declaration of Inventor Debra Durrance

I, Debra Durrance, declare as follows:

1. I am a co-inventor of the subject matter claimed in the above-entitled United States patent application, Serial Number 10/036,573.

2. The present invention is directed generally to a mechanical fastening system for an absorbent article. In one exemplary embodiment, the fastening system comprises a first fastening component comprising a forcibly oriented loop material formed by a nonwoven web of fibers. The fibers in the nonwoven web are oriented by application of force to the nonwoven web of fibers in a direction so that more of the fibers are oriented in a direction parallel to the direction of force than prior to applying a force to the nonwoven web of fibers. A second fastening component comprises hook material. The oriented nonwoven loop material of the first fastening component is adapted for releasable connection with the hook material of the second fastening component.

3. I have reviewed U.S. patent application, Serial Number 10/036,573 including the specification, drawings, and claims. I have also reviewed the Office action mailed February 22, 2005 in this application.

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4. One of ordinary skill in the art would have understood at the time of the invention of the present application the term "oriented nonwoven loop material" to mean:

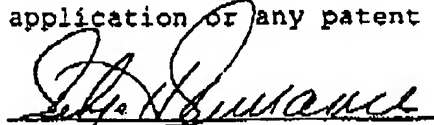
A web comprising fibers or filaments that is formed other than by weaving or knitting. The fibers in the web have a generally random orientation except that more of the fibers are generally parallel to a direction corresponding to a direction of force previously applied to the web. The orientation of the fibers would not be understood to be exclusively in the force direction or to be precisely parallel to the force direction.

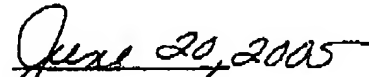
Figures 9a and 9b, which are attached hereto, are illustrative of an oriented nonwoven loop material before and after a force is applied to the web to orient the web fibers. Figure 9a shows the general orientation of the fibers of the web before a force is applied thereto. Figure 9b, on the other hand, shows the general orientation of the fibers of the web after the force has been applied. As illustrated, more of the web fibers are oriented in a direction generally parallel to the direction of the applied force than before the force was applied to the web.

5. I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful

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false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application of any patent issuing thereon.


Debra Durrance


Date